17 Jan 72

Harold —

Enclosed is the only Lattimer article that I have. As far as I know, it is the only one he wrote. My old handwritten notes are in the margins. I wrote them some time ago and have not now tried to clarify them for you. Hope you can understand them.

The NY Times article (published in the Toronto Globe & Mail) was infuriating, partly because it confirmed my worst expectation — that the government would haul out its own "expert" to see the pix, proclaim the validity of the WR, and on that ground deny access to others.

What surprised me (and in a sense pleased me) is that they called on Lattimer. With him they are truly scraping the very bottom of their barrel of experts. They could have gotten much better, but didn't. Doesn't that mean something. Isn't it a sure sign that they know more pix can bring them nothing but trouble? You bet your sweet ass it is.

The soundest and most effective way of dealing with this matter is for you to review the memo that I did on 399 — the one showing that it lost no fragments whatever, cannot have lost any. Disclose the pictures and tell what they mean. If we seek to argue in accordance with their terms of reference, we cannot win, for those terms are stacked in their favor — using them will only lead to further confusion in an area where no confusion is warranted. Bring out the 399 base pictures (and the information set forth in the memo) and you set the terms of reference. They are fair terms, at that — which is better treatment than the bastards deserve. I urge you very, very strongly to use that material. I lay no claim

to it whatever. Use it in the way you think is best, but by all means use it. I don't know why you have held back that material for so long, for it thoroughly clinches the case against 399 wounding either JFK or Connally. Before we learned that there were fragments in JFK's neck there was perhaps the shadow of a dream of a possibility that 399 hurt him, but now there is not even that. Say so.

I include with this letter a letter that I wrote to the Globe and Mail re the NYT article.

I have to prepare a couple of lectures now, so I must sign off. I'll re-read Lattimer's article soon and perhaps send you more comments than are in the margins.

Let me know how things go ——.

Stroll

Dick

P.S. It must be hard enough to stay in good health without cutting yourself to pieces. Watch the machete cuts, will you. I know what pain such things can cause when they happen, and what a nuisance they are later. A few years I had an accident with an outboard motor that chewed up my right hand very badly — a great gash between my middle finger and trigger finger, extending deeply from the palm to the back of the hand. Blech! I still feel the effects of it. (Obviously, this will hardly cheer you up, but know that I suffer with you).